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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

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1. Q. Can you give the units of fire for Soviet tanks and SP guns?
 - A. The units of fire varied considerably according to the situation. All such information was contained in a special manual, along with the necessary vehicular complements.
2. Q. Describe the impetus of supply during combat operations from regiment down to platoon.
 - A. The principle of "delivery forward", whereby higher units supplied lower units using its own transport, was in effect from regiment to battalion to company. At company level direction of supply was reversed: squad went back to platoon and platoon went back to company. A battalion has no permanent transport assigned, but during combat the regiment will allot vehicles to the battalions. Transport of ammunition is by hand below company level. A company is the lowest unit with a permanent supply point. The platoon utilizes a distribution point at which ammunition supplies are broken down for distribution to the squads. The company supply point is small.
3. Q. Do mobile units (artillery, tank and mechanized) use their own transport to go back to higher unit for supplies?
 - A. The principle of "delivery forward" still obtains, but it is much more elastic. Subordinate mobile units do not depend, to the same extent as do rifle units, for supplies by higher unit transport. If necessary, mobile units usually can and do send their own transport back for needed supplies.
4. Q. Describe the system for tank repair in a rifle division.
 - A. At division and regimental levels the assistant commander for the Technical Units has responsibility for three installations: transport vehicle repair, tank repair, and the collection point for damaged and captured vehicles. Light or minor repairs can usually be performed at the regimental level, while medium repair is carried out at the division level. Capital repairs are performed at the factories in the interior.

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